How important is the literature review (and differentiating between various types of journals) and assessing prior research, theorists, and current instructional strategies?

The literature review is important for many different reasons. It allows us to build knowledge and identify research in our field while focusing on what is being learned and refining it along the way. It is a critical piece that is based on unbiased information and solely based on research that has been proven. While producing a literature review we are identifying other researchers in our field and making sure we are not repeating research already out. Before beginning the literature review our research question should be formulated to help us begin the research process and which readings we should be looking for. We should maintain a record with notes explaining why that particular reading was chosen and a list of references. According to Owl (2012) “It provides the information necessary for a reader to locate and retrieve any source you cite in the body of the paper”.

Deciphering between various types of journals is crucial within the literature review. One of the most respectable is a blind-refereed article. These particular articles are sent to scholars in the same field who carefully review its validity, without the name of the author, to avoid any biases. A Peer-Reviewed article is another type that is also reviewed by scholars who also carefully review its validity but the authors name is visible. Lastly, trade magazines can be used for a portion of there research but are often not considered reliable sources. While looking for literature it is essential to be able to identify between useful and non-useful sources.

Theorists pave the way for us students. There is no good reason to reinvent the wheel when the results have already been discovered. It is in our best interests to learn what is out there and incorporate in our instructional strategies

References

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